



Steve Westly
California State Controller

Why I Am Marching

The impact of climate change on California is undeniable. California's snow-pack is down 10 percent, sea levels are increasing causing particular concerns for the north-south movement of water to the dryer climates of Southern California, and the risk of large-scale fires is also increasing

California is the most populous state in the country, has the sixth largest economy in the world, and is the largest producer of food in the nation. The California Energy Commission estimates that California's carbon emissions represent over 7 percent of the U.S. emissions and nearly 2 percent of the world's human-caused GHG emissions. Our influential power and contributory role in this crisis make it essential that we engage in the struggle to fight global warming.

Recently, our nation's failure to establish GHG emission reduction goals inspired my sponsorship of Assembly Bill 1365, which combats climate change by adding the Kyoto greenhouse gas targets to California's state planning priorities. We're the first state in the nation to regulate vehicle greenhouse gas emissions; however we can't afford to be complacent. We must also continue to reduce our GHG emissions wherever possible through the development of greener buildings, the adoption of more efficient appliance standards, and by increasing the use of renewable fuels and other clean technologies.

Regardless of your position on climate change, the increasing demand for oil in India and China, coupled with decreasing estimates of proven oil reserves globally means the United States must reduce its dependency on oil. The belief that increasing oil production is our only energy alternative must be replaced with the confidence that safer renewable energy sources are capable substitutes.

Voicing our support for anti-global warming legislation will prove invaluable and California's influence requires that our voice be among the loudest.

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